

14

Speech of Dr. Silva Calderon of the M.E.P. of Venezuela,
consultative member of the Socialist International.

March 19, 1981.

Members of the Board of Directors of this international event,
my good friends from the socialist democrat parties here present,

I am not going to bore you with a big long speech, since we
are all extremely tired by now. I shall give you a brief summary
of some of the things and I shall start by saying that many of
the ideas expressed here are shared by us in such a way that we
must only stress the few that we may have some reservations
about or that we feel it would be worthwhile stressing.

Thanks to the M.E.P. of Aruba and our party in Venezuela has
the same name, thank you for inviting us to this important event,
celebrating the ten years of existence, and the first five years
of the hymn and the flag of Aruba. I respect salute to the
flag and the anthem as a demonstration of their purpose to
obtain welfare and independence. Our congratulations to Betico
Croes and the other members of M.E.P. for the ten years of
existence of the party, for the success they have achieved
and our best wishes for the constant progress towards the goals
they have set for themselves and for their permanent evolution
towards socialism as the efficient method for obtaining the
welfare of Aruba.

Our party, the M.E.P. of Venezuela, has its thought on democratic
socialism. In the search for this achievement it is fully aware
of the need for an understanding and cooperation on international
level, among all of those who share this ideology. This under-
standing, this cooperation should not remain in words of a
declaration alone, they should become facts, deeds, because
to upgrade the greater criticism of formalists the day make
upon us, sometimes is true.

It is not enough just to state our rights, it is not worthwhile
to involve history nor the legal aspects, nor the statement of
this illegal text. If all of this is not to mean true transfor-
mation of our unjust social realities.

The dif

The differences that exist among us are not sometimes just
subordinate, quite often they come to the heart of the method
we have before us. And the exaggerated dependence upon the forms
and the threat that we may lose them if we advance towards the
solution of the real problems of our people is means of black-
mail that we cannot accept, without risking. As Dr. Morales men-
tioned this morning, we have been premature losers, we then have
the duty of not continuing to be permanent losers.

Along this line, the memory of our failures can be useful for
the analysis that will prevent us from committing new errors,
but they must be rejected when they go beyond the limits of fear.
Thus it might be worthwhile to recognize victories. Even though
they are not the end of all things, they might be helpful. We
can remember the case of Venezuela in the face of dictator-
ships. We were able to struggle at it like Chili did. We must

remember the case of Nicaragua and El Salvador. And remember that victories are not always the true victories.

And when we speak of the defence of the legal forms which of course seem to be part of a system of democratic socialism that we share it might step to analyze and see where they exist and where we are being losers. When we think that we must conserve the freedom of expression which is so valuable for mankind and we look upon the case of Aruba, where the press is silent vis-a-vis an event such as these or where expressions which are not the feelings of their people are written in the press, we must realize that there is a coercion of the freedom of expressions and let us not think of a country that is submitted to colonization. In Venezuela we feel that we have formal advanced democracy. We have freedom of the press, we undergo the same damage, harm, that you suffer. And they are the events that they are interested in are published and the others are not. The Government respects the liberties, that is true, but it has not been able to prevail over the large capitalist that use t.v. and the media for their own interests against the interest of the population to deform our culture and our feelings.

We have mentioned that political independence does not really mean comprehensive independence. We have it for 150 years and we have not been able to get away from economic independence. And Venezuela has a great deal of money, being a rich country among its neighbours and yet it is a miserable country and under-developed country, where hunger among children prevails, and I was remembering Carlos when he spoke of the polly, which is nothing with hunger in other countries that suffer more than Venezuela and that Venezuela undergoes also, even though it seems to be apparently rich.

When we come to decolonization we much have a clear mind and open eyes. It is a struggle that will not always be achieved easily in a parliamentary way. We know that some countries have achieved their independence in a bloody fashion. Venezuela and other Latin American countries have long histories of struggles for freedom. The adversary is comfortable, he simulates understanding and condescendence, and new colonial forms arrives, as has been mentioned here, of economic nature, but even within those of ours who are struggling to overthrow economic dependency the enemy also appears to admit new legal or economic forms covertly continuing to exploit. I have had to struggle in my country and to work a long time to rescue the oil industry, for ten years at least it took us to convince our people of the invisibility of nationalization. And in another five years in preparing the legal instruments that I brought before the Senate. I must confess that I am still not satisfied of the oil nationalization that exists in Venezuela.

We have simulated forms of the presence of the transnationals. Economically it is costing us a lot and we still have the influence of foreign aspects leading us in these fields, so we cannot offer to them. As a model we must analyze this process polish it and

improve it.

Aruba, Puerto Rico and to the other peoples submitted to colonial political or economic pressures, we who have had experience, traumatic experiences politically speaking, painful experiences from the economic point of view and which we are still convulsed. All of us we are forced to transmit this experience.

Aruba, and the M.E.P., and Puerto Rico and the other peoples submitted to colonial aspects, you can count upon the experience that we have in the search for independence and freedom and do not hesitate to ask for our help, we will be happy to be here with you or any place where you ask us to be.

I thank you.